

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0478

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT IT PO PEPR
SUBJECT: SOCIALIST PARTY REACTION TO US STATEMENT ON ITALY

SUMMARY: TWO SOCIALIST PARTY MODERATES PRIVATELY DOUBTED
THE WISDOM OF THE U.S. STATEMENT ON THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST
PARTY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN JAN 17 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, PS SECRETARIAT
MEMBER JAIME GAMA RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE
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U.S. STATEMENT ON COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE ITALIAN
GOVERNMENT. GAMA DID NOT FAVOR PCI PARTICIPATION IN
GOVERNMENT, BUT JUDGED THAT THE U.S. STATEMENT HAD A
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE EFFECT ON PUBLIC OPINION IN ITALY,
FRANCE, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IN SPAIN. PORTUGAL
HAS BEEN TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH ITS OWN POLITICAL
CRISIS TO FOCUS ON THE ITALIAN SITUATION. BUT,

GAMA WAS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF A PUBLIC U.S. EFFORT TO LIMIT ITALIAN POLITICAL OPTIONS WHEN WE HAD NO CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO RESOLVE THE ITALIAN CRISIS.

2. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, PS INSIDER BERNARDINO GOMES WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO ITALY ON SOCIALIST PARTY BUSINESS TOLD EMBOFF JAN 17 THAT THE U.S. STATEMENT HAD PRODUCED A NEGATIVE REACTION AMONG BOTH ITALIAN POLITICIANS AND THE PUBLIC.

3. COMMENT: THE ABOVE COMMENTS REFLECT THE SENTIMENTS OF THE MAINSTREAM SOCIALIST LEADERSHIP, FROM WHICH BOTH GAMA AND GOMES ARE DRAWN.
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